

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04953 281255Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /079 W
-----125250 281304Z /47/44

O R 241130Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2259
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4953

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 3)

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: FRONT VIEWS

1. A LIBERAL WHITE POLITICIAN WHOM I BELIEVE TO BE
RELIABLE DESCRIBED A CONVERSATION SHE RECENTLY HAD WITH
THE CHAIRMAN OF SMITH'S RHODESIA FRONT PARTY, MAC KNOX.
SHE SAID THAT KNOX WAS DISCOURAGED OVER THE SITUATION IN
RHODESIA. SMITH, KNOX SAID, WAS LISTENING TO THE WRONG
PEOPLE. KNOX WAS URGING SMITH TO ACCEPT AN ALL PARTIES
MEETING IN PART BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING WAR, BUT ALSO
BECAUSE HE DOUBTED THAT IF SMITH CONTINUED TO INSIST ON
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04953 281255Z

A WHITE REFERENDUM, HE COULD WIN IT. HE FELT THAT AN ALL
PARIES MEETING COULD ALLOW SMITH AND THE RF TO GET OUT
OF THE COMMITMENT TO A REFERENDUM.

2. I ASKED WHO KNOX FELT SMITH WAS LISTENING TO IF IT
WAS NOT LEADERS OF THE RF PARTY. THE ANSWER WAS
JACK GAYLARD.

3. COMMENT: INSPITE OF THE REPORTS ONE RECEIVES OF UNHAPPINESS IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY, I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SMITH COULD NOT WIN ANY REFERENDUM HE SETS HIS MIND TO, A VIEW WHICH CIVIL SERVANTS LIKE JACK GAYLARD AND SECURITY CHIEF KEN FLOWER SHARE. NEVERTHELESS, BILL IRVINE, CO-MINISTER OF TRANSPORT & POWER WAS REPORTED IN THE AUGUST 23 HERALD AS SAYING HE BELIEVES THAT IF THE REFERENDUM WERE HELD NOW IT WOULD FAIL BY A LARGE MARGIN. BEYOND THAT, I ALSO AM SKEPTICAL THAT SMITH LISTENS MORE TO GAYLARD THAN TO LEADERS OF THE RF PARTY. IT IS NEVERTHELESS TRUE THAT JACK GAYLARD DOES CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT WITH HIS CHIEF AND THAT MANY LEADERS OF THE RF ARE VERY WORRIED OVER THE DISSATIFICATION OF THE WHITE COMMUNITY AND WHAT SEEMS TO BE A LOSS OF DISCIPLINE AND PURPOSE WITHIN THE RF WHICH PEOPLE FIND DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET. EDMONDSON

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